

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
9/21/08 – 10/4/08**

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Painter and PCO Kevin Postma responded to the scene of a car-moose accident on US 2. A tractor truck and trailer struck the young bull moose, causing extensive damage to the truck and killing the moose.

CO Matt Eberly contacted numerous small game hunters during the first week of the season. Two hunters were ticketed for failing to purchase a small game license and another for operating an unregistered ORV.

CO Grant Emery checked an illegal bear bait he had located earlier in the year. CO Emery found a hunter in the illegal tree stand dressed in full camouflage with a loaded shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery and Sgt. Marc Pomroy contacted a group of bear hound hunters near Bergland. In speaking with the individuals involved in the hunt, it was found that a bear was shot and wounded that morning. A check of the Retail Sales System (RSS) revealed he had a participation license and not a valid kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Leadman and Jason Niemi observed a subject step from a vehicle and shoot a partridge while not wearing hunter orange. When contacted, the subject stated that since he was on his way to camp, hunter orange was optional. A ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 2

CO John Wenzel was assisted by CO Reid Roeske with the arrest of a subject who had been driving slowly on a state forest road. Upon contact, CO Wenzel found the driver was in possession of a loaded, uncased rifle. The subject's driver's license was also revoked.

CO John Wenzel and Sgt. Darryl Shann assisted Wildlife Division with the recovery of a wolf collar. The collar was emitting a mortality signal that was picked up by the DNR plane. The collar had been removed from a recently tracked wolf in west Delta County.

CO John Wenzel and Sgt. Darryl Shann ticketed a subject for possession of an uncased, loaded and cocked lever action rifle in a motor vehicle.

CO Kyle Publiski had a very busy period issuing several tickets for bait violations to both deer and bear hunters.

CO Gerald Thayer was called out on a shooting complaint to Trout Lake where the complainants on a safety zone violation had followed the suspect to his residence and then waited until the CO arrived. The subject was ticketed for discharging a firearm within a safety zone.

CO Kyle Publiski and Sgt. Wally Binder conducted a waterfowl opener patrol on Drummond Island shoreline and the Chain of Lakes Flooding. Several tickets were issued for various violations, including one for taking a protected species after the COs witnessed the shooting at first light.

Sgt. Dave Rantanen investigated a complaint of subjects hunting waterfowl over bait in southern Schoolcraft County. As a flock of geese started to descend into the baited area, two subjects started shooting; it was one-half hour after shooting hours ended. Sgt. Rantanen made contact with the subjects at their vehicle and enforcement action was taken.

When CO Hammill and PCO Crisp followed an illegal ORV trail into an illegal bear bait, CO Hammill approached three of the subjects on their ORVs while PCO Crisp walked back to the blind to check the fourth hunter. It was dark when the COs made contact. As Hammill approached the group, he identified himself as a conservation officer, and the response from one of the hunters was, "...if you are a conservation officer you are a dead one...". CO Hammill again identified himself and the response was the same. In a louder voice, CO Hammill again identified himself and this time the response from the subject was a statement to his partner, "...hand me your gun, I'm going to shoot a game warden...". At this point CO Hammill ordered the hunters not to move. The subjects then realized that CO Hammill was a conservation officer and not his hunting partner who they were waiting for. The subject apologized to CO Hammill many times while the CO took action on the violations.

COs Derek Miller and Bob Madden took action on a group of waterfowl hunters who had more guns than licensed hunters in the blind.

DISTRICT 3

A patrol in the Pigeon River Country (PRC) and perimeter produced two vehicles using artificial lights with uncased bows/arrows. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Feagan located a subject who was attempting to snag fish in a closed area on the Ocqueoc River. After contact, CO Feagan found the subject also had a warrant out for his arrest for unpaid fines on an arrest two years ago. CO Feagan arrested and lodged the subject in the county jail.

CO Michael Feagan responded to two separate deer baiting complaints in Cheboygan County. After investigation and contact, tickets were issued for baiting deer in the Lower Peninsula and for archery deer hunting without a license.

CO Eric Bottorff and PCO Mark Depew observed anglers on the Cheboygan River, three of whom were snagging several salmon. Contact was made, three tickets were issued and three salmon were seized.

CO Andrea Albert ticketed a subject for illegal bear bait while on a designated patrol in Alpena County.

CO Andrea Erratt concentrated her efforts on the Boyne River last week. She reports the salmon are in medium to heavy. Andrea ticketed an angler for "noodling" (hand catching) a salmon and 11 others for keeping foul hooked fish, snagging, trespass, and illegal hooks.

CO Andrea Erratt patrolled the state land in Charlevoix County ticketing three ORV operators for operating in closed areas and on the roadway. CO Erratt also ticketed a subject for littering and another subject for timber trespass.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl Vanderwall worked a late night patrol on the Boyne River targeting salmon snaggers. While watching two anglers get fed up with their attempts to catch fish, the COs observed one of the anglers retreat back into the woods. The angler started digging under a stump to retrieve their snag hooks that they had hidden earlier. COs Vanderwall and Budreau ticketed the two anglers and seven others for snagging and illegal hooks.

CO Carl Vanderwall ticketed three subjects for baiting in Montmorency County while working the TB initiative with CO Joe Molnar.

CO Andrea Erratt and Sgt. Jim Gorno checked duck hunters on the Chain of Lakes in Antrim and Charlevoix Counties on opening day. While on boat patrol, the COs checked 18 hunters and six fishermen. No hunting violations were found. One surprised nonresident angler was ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO Andrea Albert responded to a trespass complaint on the Boyne River. During the investigation, CO Albert ticketed nine anglers for various fishing violations, including snagging, keeping foul hooked fish, illegal hooks and lures, and overlimit of salmon.

CO Andrea Erratt investigated a complaint where a subject loaded up a 28 foot boat with trash including a boat hoist, refrigerator, bicycle, and other items and had it towed into Lake Charlevoix and sunk. With assistance from local law enforcement dive teams, CO Erratt located the sunken trash and is charging the subject with littering over 30 cubic feet.

CO Andrea Albert was dispatched to the Jordan River Valley pathway near Pinney Bridge campground for an injured hiker. The hiker was overcome with severe leg cramps and was unable to finish the hike. CO Albert found the hiker and transported him out of the valley.

PCOs Mark DePew and Matt Theunick worked undercover on area streams checking illegal fishing activity. COs Kelly Ross and Nick Torsky worked nearby waiting to make arrests if illegal activity was observed. The first patrol produced an angler who had been snagging and kept a foul hooked fish. The second patrol yielded an overlimit case. A husband and wife teamed up to foul hook several salmon and when the COs confronted the two they were found to be in possession of nine salmon. The subjects were ticketed and bond taken as one of the subjects had a civil warrant out for his arrest.

PCO Mark Depew and CO Kelly Ross received a complaint of an illegal bait used by a bear hunter. Upon locating the bait, the COs determined the hunter also did not have his name and address on his tree stand and had a dirty bait. The COs contacted the hunter later that evening and found him in the tree stand with a firearm and not wearing hunter orange. The hunter was ticketed for the safety violation and was warned about his other violations.

PCO Mark Depew and CO Kelly Ross, while out on a marine patrol on Fletchers Pond, observed a boat with two anglers aboard and conducted a routine check for safety equipment and fishing licenses. The father and son were from Ohio and stated they came up to fish. The father somehow forgot to buy his fishing license and was ticketed.

While working under the plane on a night hunting patrol, area conservation officers responded to a request for two patrol units as two vehicles were shining together in Alpena County. PCO Matt Theunick and CO Nick Torsky, along with CO Joe Molnar, caught up to the subjects who appeared to be raccoon hunting. Upon contacting the subjects of both vehicles, the COs found uncased and fully loaded .22 rimfire rifles. The young hunters were both written tickets and the laws regarding their violations were fully explained.

CO Joe Molnar received a complaint of an older hunter who had shot a cub bear. The hunter explained how he had always wanted to shoot a bear. CO Molnar explained that he needed to seize the bear as it appeared to be a cub. The local biologist agreed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar investigated the death of a 6x6 bull elk and determined the bull was killed from injuries received in a fight with another bull elk.

CO Joe Molnar received a complaint of a hunter who had shot a couple deer during the early antlerless deer season. CO Molnar questioned several witnesses and discovered the hunter had not tagged either deer. The subject has been convicted before for illegal dealings concerning an elk. Tickets were issued for the tagging violation and another for taking a deer without a valid license.

CO Joe Molnar stopped a vehicle that was shining and found the occupants were in possession of a bow. One of the subjects could only produce an antlerless deer license for a downstate county. Further discussion led CO Molnar to their nearby camp on

state land. CO Molnar, after observing bait at camp, took the subjects for a walk into the woods and found an illegal bait pile under one of their tree stands. CO Molnar issued tickets for baiting and hunting without a valid license.

CO Bill Webster has been writing tickets to anglers fishing for salmon on the Thunder Bay River. Area COs have been assisting him with the snagging complaints and writing tickets for various illegal activity. One snagging complaint resulted in CO Webster writing tickets to three anglers for illegal tackle and fishing without a license.

CO Bill Webster checked a vehicle driving slowly on the back roads and found two uncased firearms on the front seat that were ready for action. The crew had been hunting small game and possessed a couple of squirrels. One subject in the vehicle was in the backseat and had her firearm properly transported in a case. Tickets issued for the safety violation.

CO Bill Webster had scouted some private property before opening day of the archery deer season and had located several baited archery blinds. On opening day, Sgt. Chris Morris and CO Webster attempted to contact the hunters to no avail. On Sunday evening CO Webster observed two subjects riding together on an ORV on the private property without helmets and transporting bait and uncased bows. CO Webster contacted the subjects as they were refreshing their bait at their blinds and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Jeff Ginn received a Newaygo County baiting complaint. On the morning of the youth deer season opener he was approaching the baited area when a series of shots rang out. He observed two subjects in full camouflage operating an ORV from the subject's residence to the baited area. CO Ginn discovered that the subject and his 10 year old son had shot an eight point buck. Neither the father nor son had any kind of deer hunting license. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was seized.

CO Ryan Rademacher received a complaint of two bucks being taken from a Newaygo County deer camp. The shooters were supposedly adults. Information from the camp revealed the location of the two subject's homes. CO Jeff Ginn and Sgt. Scott Wilk went to one residence while CO Rademacher went to the other. Both subjects were caught after just having processed the five and six point animals. One subject stated that they never see any bucks during the regular season because "the neighbors get them all" and they wanted to make sure they got some horns. Both adults were ticketed and the deer were seized.

CO Jeff Ginn investigated a boating accident on Croton Pond where a subject in a fishing boat came around a blind corner going too fast and ran into a pontoon boat. The pontoon driver was taken to the hospital to be treated for lacerations.

CO Troy VanGelderren caught two subjects netting salmon in Oceana County. While checking the two young men it was discovered that neither had a driver's license though they had driven dad's car to the stream. One young man admitted to taking the car without permission while his dad was sleeping. The father was notified and the young men ticketed for the netting violation.

CO Ryan Rademacher was working salmon along a Newaygo County stream when he came upon two subjects carrying a white bag. After following the two men for some distance, he noticed one subject had a hand gun on his hip. CO Rademacher approached and disarmed the subject. An inspection of the white bag revealed marijuana plants. The MSP was called and the subjects taken into custody.

CO Diane Drogowski was sitting in an area used in the past for illegal ORV operation in Grand Traverse County. A vehicle pulled into the area and a subject with two small children exited the vehicle. The subject set up a target for target shooting. While CO Drogowski was observing the subject, she witnessed the subject strike the 3 year old female child several times. CO Drogowski called the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department for assistance and contacted the subject. The subject was arrested and lodged in Grand Traverse County jail. Child Protection Services was called and the two children, who were 3 and 5 years old, were released to their mother. The subject, the children's stepfather, was charged and arraigned on one count of 2nd degree child abuse, a four year felony.

COs Carl Soper, Steve Converse, Sam Koscinski, Brian Brosky, Angela Greenway and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth conducted a group patrol of Tippy Dam and Huff Creek in Manistee County. The COs were assisted by six River Watch volunteers while working the Tippy Dam area. The patrol resulted in 45 tickets for various violations, including using illegal fishing gear, keeping illegally hooked salmon, and attempting to snag. Approximately 34 fish were seized totaling about 300 pounds.

COs Jim Espinoza and Brian Brosky were patrolling near Indian Bridge in Mason County when they were told by an angler that he would like to help them by reporting snagging in the area. He then said that he saw some persons snagging downstream. The COs walked downstream and located some anglers fishing legally. The COs then returned and watched the complainant from a concealed position. As they watched, the complainant snagged a fish and put it on a stringer. The subject was ticketed along with two other violators for snagging and keeping salmon.

CO Steve Converse ticketed 36 subjects over the weekend for taking salmon in Manistee County via illegal methods including netting, snagging, grabbing, etc. In one case a group of seven subjects blocked off Huff Creek in order to force the fish through a narrow channel so they could be netted, snagged with treble hooks, and grabbed by hand. The group received several tickets and will be required to provide restitution for the fish taken. In another contact, CO Converse encountered two subjects whom he had ticketed the previous day for having illegal gear. The two had legal gear this time

but ended up keeping two illegally hooked fish and one fish that had been chased up on shore.

While conducting a night foot patrol near Tippy Dam in Manistee County, COs Brian Brosky and Sam Koscinski encountered an intoxicated subject attempting to snag fish. The angler was warned and agreed to stop. A short while later, the COs returned and watched the subject hook a salmon illegally. The person who netted the fish told the angler that the fish was foul hooked and that he should return it to the water. The subject disregarded the advice and put the fish on a stringer. The COs re-contacted the subject and ticketed him for retaining a foul hooked fish.

While checking a local stream in Manistee County, COs Carla Soper and Steve Converse watched as two subjects netted and snagged salmon. Upon contacting the subjects it was found that one individual had previously been written tickets by both COs for overlimit of salmon and use of illegal fishing gear. Both subjects were written for snagging and the salmon were seized.

COs Carla Soper and Steve Converse responded to a complaint of salmon snagging and netting in a small creek in Manistee County. The COs found the subjects to be in possession of an overlimit of salmon. The overlimit resulted in 98 pounds of seized fish, and subjects were ticketed.

CO Mike Bomay and Sgt. Scott Wilk were checking a duck camp on the shore of the Feather Bed Marsh in Mecosta County. It was the opening day of waterfowl season. No one was in the camp but several ducks were hanging from a "duck pole". The type of ducks were noted and marked. That evening the COs took kayaks and went to locate the hunters from the camp. The subjects were found at the north end of the marsh, shooting after hours. The COs returned to the camp and waited in the dark for the hunters to return. Four men walked into the camp with two large bundles of dead ducks. The subjects had 12 wood ducks in their bag. There had been five wood ducks hanging from the pole in the morning. The pole was now empty. After a number of varying stories it was discovered that the morning ducks had been breasted out and the carcasses thrown in the woods. When all evidence was recovered, the subjects were found to be five wood ducks over their limit. One subject was taken to jail on two outstanding warrants. The others were ticketed for various violations.

CO Troy Mueller was working a complaint of a particular deer hunter who had been trespassing on a number of different Osceola County properties for the last three years. He located the subject hunting in what turned out to be a stolen tree stand. An untagged six point buck lay nearby that the man had already taken. The area was also baited. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells located a subject hunting a baited area in Newaygo County with a crossbow. The subject had no permit for the crossbow. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Rademacher watched a subject snag three salmon in a Newaygo County stream. The man threw the fish into the brush and suddenly left the area. CO Rademacher decided to wait for the man to return to collect his fish. After about two hours the man returned with two other subjects who snagged two fish and threw them into the brush as well. CO Rademacher contacted the subjects and found they had no intention of keeping any fish. The men all worked at a local shop in Fremont and were taking part in a contest among work buddies to see who could snag the most fish in a season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Rademacher observed a nine point buck hanging at a Newaygo County residence that was well known to the CO. Officer Rademacher checked the tag and found the deer was tagged with a tag that did not belong to the shooter, nor was it validated. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Sam Koscinski and Steve Converse ran a patrol on the Manistee River in Manistee County. Numerous tickets were issued for snagging and retaining foul hooked fish, and over 120 pounds of salmon were seized.

CO Sam Koscinski ticketed a subject for violating the baiting and feeding ban in the Lower Peninsula. The subject was feeding deer behind his cabin and also baiting deer at his deer blind in Wexford County.

COs Sam Koscinski and Jair Kollasch contacted a group of subjects cutting firewood on state land in Wexford County. The subjects did have a firewood permit but had cut some live trees. A ticket was issued for destroying the trees.

CO Sean Kehoe ticketed a bow hunter in Grand Traverse County for violating the baiting ban. The subject was also hunting on property for which she did not have permission.

CO Mike Borkovich ticketed a bow hunter for violating the baiting ban in Leelanau County. The subject had been baiting his stand with corn since the beginning of September.

COs Carolyn Dice and Angela Greenway were patrolling a remote Lake County location along the Pere Marquette River near Sulak Landing when they encountered a semi-permanent camp that had been set up that included sunken posts, etc. Several subjects living at the site were ticketed for snagging-related violations and the group was evicted from the area after being given instructions to disassemble the encampment.

COs Jim Espinoza and Brian Brosky were patrolling near Maple Leaf Landing in Mason County when they encountered two subjects snagging salmon. The anglers were among a group of others fishing with semi-legal gear. The COs contacted the two snaggers and escorted them to the parking area. CO Brosky turned and went back to the river after walking out of visual range of the persons on the river. He watched as the

others snagged and kept a salmon not two minutes after seeing their cohorts apprehended.

CO Steve Converse apprehended two subjects trespassing on a closed portion of Pine Creek in Manistee County. The subjects were caught netting several fish in the closed creek.

COs Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski were patrolling the Manistee River when then encountered two persons snagging fish from a boat. One of the two was recognized by CO Converse as a person he had written a ticket to last year at the same location for the same violation.

CO Carolyn Dice received a complaint that a person had a large bait pile near a garage in Lake County. CO Dice responded to the location and was greeted by the landowner with angry words about the state not having jurisdiction on his property and that he did not plan on obeying the baiting ban. As the subject was speaking, CO Dice observed a large pile of carrots and sugar beets near the garage and another large pile of sugar beets inside the garage. The subject was ticketed for the violation and referred to the magistrate regarding his concerns about state jurisdiction on private property.

CO Carolyn Dice apprehended two subjects for trespassing on Rosa Creek in Lake County and hand fishing for salmon. One of the subjects had been arrested for the same activity at the same location two years before.

CO Carolyn Dice located two out of state hunters as they were placing bait under their illegal tree stands in Lake County. CO Dice located the hunters by following the vehicle tracks they left when they went around a "no motor vehicle" sign and barrier.

CO Steve Converse watched two subjects arrive on a closed stream in Manistee County and quickly snag five salmon with "legal" torpedoes. The two were apprehended and ticketed.

CO Brian Brosky and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth were surveilling a group of persons attempting to snag fish at Indian Bridge in Mason County when a person arrived who had been intimidating others at the site with threats of violence for fishing in "his spot". The subject had previously assaulted an elderly subject at the bridge and is locally notorious. After elbowing his way into his "spot", the subject began snagging fish and throwing them out onto the roadway. After recording the subject's actions on video, the COs walked down to the subject, arrested him and transported him to jail.

Later that same day at the same location, CO Brosky and Sgt Hackworth were surveilling the bridge with video when a subject called out for someone to call 9-1-1. The officers responded to the access site adjacent to the bridge just in time to assist a subject out of the water that had nearly drowned after his boat had become swamped. A quick thinking angler waded over and saved the subject after he turned face down

and started floating down the river. The COs provided first aid until emergency personnel arrived.

While checking anglers on a local trout stream in Manistee County, CO Carla Soper observed two subjects foul hooking salmon. When CO Soper contacted the individuals, she asked the subjects if they had any illegal fishing tackle. One of the individuals grabbed his tackle box and opened it to show the CO. Unfortunately for the subject there was a marijuana cigarette laying in the top compartment. CO Soper had the local narcotics team respond. The narcotics officer followed the subject back to his camp and found a bag of marijuana. This was the subject's third drug offense.

CO Carla Soper was on foot patrol along a closed stream in Manistee County when she encountered three subjects fishing for salmon. CO Soper contacted the subjects and ran LEIN checks. One of the individuals had a warrant for failing to appear on an ORV violation out of Ogemaw County. The subject and his partners were able to post his \$300 bond, and all subjects received tickets for fishing in a closed trout stream and were charged with restitution on the fish.

COs Carla Soper and Steve Converse worked on Manistee Lake on the waterfowl opener and checked two individuals hunting from a boat. One subject did not have his waterfowl stamp, there were no without personal flotation devices on board and they and had left litter in their hunting spot.

CO Diane Drogowski and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand checked Mitchell Creek in Traverse City on the last day it was open to fishing. The COs observed one subject catch and keep two fish, one of the fish was foul hooked. While observing the two anglers, a third subject stood above them on the walkway and advised them that the DNR was in the area. After learning that the COs were in the area, the subjects began releasing any foul hooked fish they caught, and the two fish that were caught earlier were separated and put on two stringers. Upon contacting the anglers, one of the anglers didn't deny that the fish was foul hooked but told the COs that they knew better than he where the fish was hooked. The subject was ticketed for retaining a foul hooked fish.

CO Diane Drogowski checked Mitchell Creek in Traverse City again the next day (this day the stream was closed to fishing) and observed several subjects retaining foul hooked fish. Several tickets were issued.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn received a complaint of shots being fired from a shotgun on an area river. Immediately following the shots, the complainant heard commands to a dog to retrieve the duck. CO Hearn located the subject on the river who admitted to shooting a duck a week before the start of the season.

CO Chuck McPherson contacted an archery hunter who had constructed an illegal blind on state land, posted state land as private, and illegally placed deer bait at the blind for

two weeks before the archery opener. The only license the hunter possessed was an antlerless license for an area other than where he was hunting.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz contacted a hunter who was dressed in full camouflage coming out of a cut cornfield after seeing the CO's vehicle. The subject was in possession of a bow, but claimed it was his girlfriend's second bow and that she was hunting in a separate area. The subject further stated that he was just out scouting and not hunting due to the fact that his hunting privileges had been revoked.

CO William Cherry contacted a husband and wife who were hunting upland birds and not wearing hunter orange. The wife had just taken a hunter safety course and neither wanted to wear hunter orange. Tickets were issued.

CO Mike Hearn responded to a complaint of bait on private property. CO Hearn located the blind and contacted a hunter who was hunting with a crossbow without benefit of a crossbow permit. The subject was ticketed.

CO Mike Hearn contacted a group of four waterfowl hunters who had not reviewed the waterfowl regulations and had unplugged firearms, license violations, and were unable to identify the ducks in their possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen contacted several anglers who were fishing on a designated trout lake during the closed season. The anglers were also using minnows, which is prohibited on the lake. The anglers had launched from the state access site where a large sign was posted with the fishing season dates as well as the regulations prohibiting the use of live bait. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Chuck McPherson came across three vehicles stopped in the middle of the road. A subject indicated that an elderly woman was choking. CO McPherson aided the victim who was still able to cough. CO McPherson kept the victim calm and encouraged her to keep coughing to help dislodge the object which she eventually did. She refused further medical help but CO McPherson did follow her to her nearby destination.

CO William Cherry responded to a late night complaint of a pick-up truck shining a farm field with two subjects in the cab and a third in the bed of the truck with a rifle. The complainant was able to get the license plate number. CO Cherry responded to the residence of the truck owner who was known to the CO. When CO Cherry arrived, the pick-up was just pulling into the driveway. An interview led to a confession and the driver gave the names of the other two subjects. Interviews of those individuals led to confessions and the seizure of the firearm used. Warrants are being sought.

CO Brian Olsen investigated a hunting accident involving a 12 year old archery hunter who had fallen out of a tree stand. Minor injuries were sustained by the youth.

CO Brian Olsen checked an angler who kept a short bass and also had a warrant out for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Olsen responded to a complaint of trespassing. The subject had placed an illegal bait pile on land he did not have permission to hunt. The subject also neglected to buy a deer hunting license. A ticket was issued.

CO Rebecca Hopkins checked a duck hunter coming off the water well after the close of hunting hours. A thorough check revealed a hidden bag of duck breasts. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Rebecca Hopkins and Tami Pullen located four waterfowl hunters who were hunting after the close of hunting hours. The subjects had also thrown several beverage cans into the water where they were hunting. Tickets were issued.

CO Steve Lockwood assisted in a search for a lost hunter. Officer Lockwood and other law enforcement agencies, along with a K-9, looked for the subject all night. The 63 year old male walked out of the woods unharmed at 8:00 a.m. the next morning. The subject had gotten lost and decided to spend the night in the woods. He apparently did not hear the search teams shouts and vehicle sirens.

CO Brian Engelhard, while fishing on his day off, observed a subject snag a salmon and not release the fish. CO Engelhard asked the subject if he was going to release the fish since it was foul hooked, to which the subject replied, "Hell no, I'm not going to release it." The subject kept the fish and continued fishing. CO Engelhard told the subject that keeping a foul hooked fish is illegal. The subject still didn't release the fish and continued to fish. CO Engelhard then identified himself as a CO and issued the subject a ticket for retaining a foul hooked fish.

DISTRICT 6

CO Holly Pennoni responded to an illegal burning complaint. The homeowner was burning old building materials and, while backing his ORV loaded with debris to the burn pile, he backed it too far down into the fire and completely burned his uninsured 2006 ORV. A ticket was written for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Nick Atkin responded to a RAP complaint of a pick-up truck going into state land with a load of sugar beets and coming out empty. The CO located a bait pile with fresh vehicle tracks going to the pile. CO Atkin waited in the area and located a truck matching the description of the vehicle in the complaint. The occupants were contacted and CO Atkin obtained a full confession from the passenger, who stated that he felt bad about baiting but did it anyway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott Brown investigated several illegal baiting complaints, resulting in the issuance three tickets for the violations. He also ticketed a subject who was hunting illegally over bait and purchased a license after he shot a deer with his bow.

CO Holly Pennoni received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of illegal baiting. Upon responding, she found four different hunters who were in violation. All four subjects were ticketed.

While on patrol, CO Robert Hobkirk came across two subjects on state land setting up in their tree stands. One subject was cutting branches from the tree and when the other hunter saw CO Hobkirk, he placed something into his backpack. Upon contacting the hunter with the backpack and asking to look into the backpack, the hunter reached in, pulled out a marijuana pipe and threw it into the cattails. CO Hobkirk ticketed that subject for litter and the other for cutting branches on state land.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a complaint of an injured deer running through Caseville. Upon investigating, CO Hobkirk found a blood trail and the hunter with the deer and an illegal bait pile. A check through the RSS licensing system showed that the hunter has never purchased a deer license and admitted to hunting without a license for years. A ticket was issued for taking the deer illegally without a license.

While working duck hunters in the Kawkawlin flooding, CO Jay Person and an agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were advised that two subjects in a truck had driven off the road and were stuck. They had been trying for two hours to get the vehicle out and had consumed a fair amount of beer in the process. A wrecker was called and pulled them out while the driver was ticketed for litter due to the beer cans thrown in the weeds.

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol late at night when he observed an individual on a small ORV driving down the county road. The ORV did not have a tail light or head light, the driver was not wearing a helmet, and the ORV had no license. After a short investigation, the driver was found to be operating while impaired and driving on a suspended license. The driver stated that he has had numerous charges in his past and that he just got out of prison for multiple charges. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the early antlerless deer season in Saginaw County, which has three Deer Management Units (DMUs), CO Daniel Lee contacted two hunters who had both been successful. While checking the antlerless deer tags on the two deer, the CO saw that one of the tags was for a Saginaw DMU which has many more antlerless tags available than the DMU in which they were actually hunting. A quick check of RSS indicated the DMU where they were hunting had sold out of licenses weeks before. Enforcement action was taken.

While on foot patrol attempting to locate a deer hunter utilizing a firearm during bow season, CO Daniel Lee came across another hunter. This was not the hunter the CO was looking for; however, they were hunting over a bait pile. After dealing with this hunter, the CO continued his search and located a second subject. This was also not the subject he was looking for; however, this hunter did not have a license.

CO Jeremy Payne received a complaint of a single firearm shot during the morning of the bow opener. CO Payne, along with CO Steve Lockwood, responded to the area and located a hunter. The bow hunter stated that he did not see a deer during the morning; however he also heard a single shot. The CO left the scene and waited until the bow hunter left the area. When the bow hunter left the area, CO Payne located a gunshot deer on the property. CO Lockwood waited in the area for the hunter to return. When the hunter returned to pick up the deer he stated, "I knew my luck was going to run out." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss followed up on a RAP complaint for baiting and found seven different blinds with salt/mineral blocks covered in molasses. The blinds were not occupied but the landowner was issued a ticket for the illegal baits.

CO Vicki Goss, on the opening day of archery season, received a complaint of trespass. The CO waited for them to return and found an 11 year old boy hunting with a non-hunting 17 year old. Neither subject had a license. His dad and uncle walked out late and neither of them had licenses. They stated they didn't have time to go buy a license. The CO looked across the street and pointed at the Tamarack Sports Store. The CO issued both adults a ticket for hunting without a license and to the father for allowing his 11 year old to hunt unsupervised.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly was investigating a RAP complaint of an illegal bait pile when the subject told the Sgt. that he had to move the apples out of the yard because his wife does not like all the yellow jackets around the house. After the investigation it was found that the 20 gallons of apples were dumped in a pile right next to a salt block and 15 yards from a tree stand. It was also discovered that the tree stand was where the subject's wife hunts. A ticket for the illegal bait was issued.

DISTRICT 7

COs Mike Mshar and Chuck Towns were on patrol when they observed a garage roof that was on fire. The COs alerted the 80 year old resident at the home before using a garden hose to extinguish the fire, just as the local fire department arrived.

COs Mike Mshar and Chuck Towns worked on a complaint of subjects hunting within the Todd Farm Unit in Allegan County during the early antlerless season. During their investigation they located and ticketed a subject for taking a deer on public land.

CO Mike Mshar, while patrolling the Allegan State Game Area, found several "mudder" style trucks operating illegally in the area. The group also included one small vehicle with two occupants wearing helmets. The plan was to film a demolition derby type event for "U-Tube" while destroying the vehicle on public land. Tickets were written for land use violations as well as unregistered vehicles.

CO Jeff Rabbers conducted a deer hunting patrol in Barry and Ionia Counties related to the early antlerless and youth seasons. While investigating a complaint in Barry County of a possible illegal deer taken by a young hunter, the investigation led to Van Buren

County where the youth was located with his father. The COs found that the vehicle involved in the incident contained three uncased firearms and the deer taken was improperly tagged with an Allegan County antlerless tag.

CO Jeff Rabbers reported five subjects were issued tickets for waterfowl violations during the goose season in Barry County. The violations included unplugged guns and various waterfowl stamp violations.

COs Jeff Rabbers and Chris Holmes continue to assist COs in Van Buren County with snagging and spearing activity along small streams. CO Rabbers reported they stopped ten subjects for illegal salmon activity and an additional three for trespass. CO Holmes reports six arrests for illegal activity along area streams.

CO Chris Holmes investigated a complaint of a possible illegal deer killed during the early antlerless season in Kalamazoo County. CO Holmes went to a residence that was for sale and noticed a blood stain near the driveway. CO Holmes called a number listed on the for sale sign and from that he located the hunter. After interviewing the subject, a confession was obtained for the illegal taking of an eight point buck during the closed season.

CO Ken Cerny conducted a late September boat patrol on an area lake and wrote a subject for towing a skier without an observer. The subject did not think the DNR checked boaters in September.

CO Mike McGee received information about a subject who shot an eight point buck during the early antlerless season. CO McGee contacted the subject and discovered the subject did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike McGee checked two antlerless deer and observed the kill tags had not been validated. Following up with the hunters, CO McGee discovered that one of the antlerless deer was taken in the wrong DMU and the other hunter had purchased a license and had not taken a required hunter safety class. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Rabbers received a complaint of a possible illegal deer being taken during the youth hunt in Barry County. The subjects left the scene prior to his arrival but a vehicle plate number was obtained. CO Zach Doss assisted CO Rabbers with locating the subject's residence, which was in Van Buren County. Subsequent interviews and investigation by the COs revealed three uncased firearms in a motor vehicle and the deer taken was tagged with an Allegan County antlerless deer tag (wrong DMU).

CO Steve Mooney and Sgt. Bob Torres set up surveillance on a local stream closed to fishing. COs observed three subjects using a long handled net scoop up a salmon and attempt to flee with the fish. The COs stopped the individuals prior to their departure. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Holmes and Steve Mooney patrolled a local stream closed to fishing. Numerous subjects were issued tickets for possessing an illegally taken fish, possessing illegal fishing gear, and possessing fishing gear along a closed stream.

DISTRICT 8

While en route from a meeting, CO Pete Purdy observed a motorist stranded in the highway median. The driver was quite shaken up as she stated that a semi truck had run her off the roadway. CO Purdy stayed with the victim until emergency personnel arrived.

CO Rich Nickols received numerous complaints about trespass, illegal baiting and hunting without licenses on opening weekend of archery season. The subjects were contacted and enforcement action was taken in all instances.

Following up on a RAP complaint, CO Rich Nickols contacted a subject who shot an antlerless deer and tagged it with a permit from the wrong DMU. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger investigated an illegal baiting complaint and found the complaint to be valid. Enforcement action was taken. Shortly after clearing the area, CO Bigger was called back to the scene by the MSP. The subject who was the focus of the illegal baiting activity had assaulted his neighbor believing that the neighbor made the complaint. Enforcement action was taken on the assault charge.

CO Rick Villerot investigated a complaint of a buck being taken during the antlerless only season. The subject told CO Villerot that when he saw the antlers he "just could not pass it up". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith was requested by the Northfield Township Police to provide backup on a traffic stop. The occupants were found in possession of a large amount of cocaine. All of the subjects in the vehicle were arrested.

During the youth deer hunt, CO Brad Brewer contacted an adult sitting in his vehicle who stated he was hunting with his juvenile son. The son was hunting alone in the woods over one-half mile away. The father was cited for allowing a minor to hunt unsupervised.

CO Jeff Goss contacted three ORV operators illegally operating on the railroad tracks. Upon further investigation it was revealed that one of the ORVs was stolen. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens and PCO Kyle Bader contacted a father and son who were hunting during the youth hunt, but were not wearing any hunter orange garments. Further investigation revealed that the juvenile did not possess a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens and PCO Bader contacted a father and son both hunting with firearms during the youth hunt. The father was with his son during the youth hunt but was illegally afield with a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger was driving in a construction zone when he observed a vehicle swerving in and out of traffic causing vehicles to leave the roadway to avoid getting hit. The reckless vehicle approached CO Bigger's vehicle from the rear, almost rear ending him. CO Bigger activated his emergency lights but it took the operator over a mile before he stopped his vehicle. Upon investigation it was revealed that the operator was an unlicensed illegal alien. Many of the motorists showed their gratitude to CO Bigger by honking and waving while he had the illegal operator stopped. The subject was turned over to immigration agents.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler received a request for assistance from a Davison Township Police Officer in reference to a hunting/safety zone violation. The subject was hunting during the early antlerless firearm season with a 12 gauge shotgun. He shot at a deer that was approximately 300 yards away from him. He missed the deer; however, the slug hit a house 410 yards away. The projectile bounced off the vinyl siding and landed at the feet of the owner who was sitting on the front porch playing with his three and five year old children. The hunter did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a local state game area, CO John Borkovich observed an ORV being operated down the road toward him and the operator was not wearing a helmet. The operator drove right up to CO Borkovich. The operator had several stitches on his face, his nose appeared to have been broken, and he was missing a few teeth. CO Borkovich inquired as to what happened and the operator informed him that a month prior he was operating his ORV down the road without a helmet at night. He stated that he ran into the yellow barrier gate behind them that was erected to keep vehicles out of a closed area of the game area. The operator stated he hit the gate head on and was thrown into the gate head first. The operator informed the CO that he wanted to take a look at the gate that almost killed him. CO Borkovich explained the current violations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach responded to a call where vehicles were being shot at while traveling along I-69 near the Lapeer/St. Clair County line. Four vehicles reported being hit along with two passengers who were not injured. Several jurisdictions responded to the complaint. The investigation continues.

Sgt. Tom Wanless responded to a baiting complaint. As the CO approached the tree stand, the hunter yelled out, "How did you find me?" The hunter knew he was in violation of the baiting regulations but felt he would not get caught due to the location on private property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ron Pinson observed a "pop up" blind on a dike in St. John's Marsh. The blind was within 100 feet of a sign that read "no hunting or shooting from dike". CO Pinson contacted the juvenile hunter and his father and explained the violation and safety concerns to them.

While patrolling the Ortonville Recreation Area, CO Al Schwiderson observed two ORVs travel off the roadway and into a closed area. The CO attempted to contact both of them when one of them fled. CO Schwiderson was able to stop one ORV and learned the information on the operator of the one who fled. Enforcement action was taken.

Responding to a complaint of subjects keeping short bass, CO Dan Walzak observed an angler on the opposite side of the channel catch and keep several small fish and put them into a yellow five gallon bucket. The angler returned to the near side and went down the bank to join his fishing companion. CO Walzak approached the two anglers and asked if they were having any luck. Both subjects said that they had caught a few. CO Walzak looked into a white bucket and observed a number of panfish and two catfish. When asked where the yellow bucket was, the first angler stated that the two had been sharing the same bucket. Looking around, CO Walzak spotted the yellow bucket under a tree root about 25 feet away. The angler tried to hide the bucket because he had kept 161 panfish. His friend had 63 panfish of his own. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was checking a local access site and encountered two anglers who tossed a marijuana cigarette they were smoking as he approached. After asking if they had any more marijuana, CO Shively found a small baggie in one of their pockets. A LEIN check showed one of the subjects had a warrant out for his arrest. Both subjects were issued tickets for fishing without a license.

CO Mark Ennett assisted the Monroe County Sheriff's Department with a case of illegal shooting of a bald eagle. The Sheriff's Department arrested several youths on numerous home invasions in the area. During the interviews the subjects admitted using a stolen .22 cal. rifle in the recent illegal killing of a juvenile bald eagle. The shooter claimed to have shot a "hawk", and was displaying the bird for friends when someone else correctly identified it as an eagle. The shooter panicked and buried the bird on the beach near his residence. One of the informants led the COs to the exact location of the eagle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lacelle Rabon was checking shore anglers when a female subject observed him asking others for their fishing licenses. She quickly gathered her fishing equipment and started to leave. CO Rabon contacted her and asked for her fishing license. She became very arrogant and stated she was not fishing, she was only removing the fishing lines from the water. CO Rabon explained that she is required to display her license to fish and her identification. A file check revealed that she had two existing warrants from Melvindale Police Department. Enforcement action was taken.

While following up on a baiting and stolen property complaint, CO Brandon Kieft located two illegal tree stands overlooking two large bait piles on state land. Both tree stands had no name or address on them and one of them had screw-in steps leading up to the stand. A stolen trail camera was recovered from one of the hunting locations the day before and pictures of a male subject dumping bait were obtained. As CO Kieft was walking back toward his patrol truck, he recognized the male subject from the trail camera walking toward him. He stopped the subject who was carrying a 5 gallon bucket with more bait and he had a .40 caliber handgun in a holster around his waist. He had no legal hunting license in his possession and no hunters orange. He also made verbal admissions that the bait and tree stands were his. Warrants are being sought for the violations including theft of the trail camera.

COs Ben Shively and Kris Kiel responded to a complaint in northern Oakland County of a subject placing large quantities of bait. The COs walked in and contacted one subject who was hunting in a tree stand over 75 lbs of corn and carrots. The COs contacted another subject on the property who was hunting in a tree stand with a crossbow, had not purchased any deer licenses, and was using his daughter's junior combo tag, and hunting over 75 lbs of corn, carrots, and molasses. Both subjects were also found to be in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

On the opening morning of the archery season, CO Kris Kiel walked in on a tree stand that he had a complaint on from last year for over-baiting. CO Kiel was not able to locate anyone hunting there last year. This time, the subject was there, hunting over a large pile of corn and carrots. Enforcement action was taken.

While en route to a complaint, CO Todd Szyska and PCO Mark Papineau saw a buck on top of a vehicle and could not see a tag attached. They made a stop on the vehicle and saw that the deer was tagged but had a restricted tag on a six point buck. When the COs checked the vehicle they found an uncased crossbow in the back seat. Enforcement action was taken.